

Remarks

Claims 1-22, 24-33, and 35-68 are in the application, of which claims 1, 7, 11, 24, 32, 36, 37, and 39 are in independent form. New dependent claims 41-68 are added by this amendment.

In the specification, paragraph [0009] is amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error.

Applicant acknowledges the examiner's indication that claims 7-9, 11, 23-27, 30, 32, 33, and 35-40 are directed to allowable subject matter, and has rewritten claims 7, 11, 25, 32, 36, 37 and 39 in independent form, with certain broadening amendments as follows:

- Certain limitations of original claim 7 have been moved to new dependent claims 44 and 45.
- A limitation of original independent claim 1, requiring “the seating surface being sized and shaped to contact a substantial portion of the first side of the diaphragm when the diaphragm is flexed to the closed position, thereby facilitating heat transfer between the valve seat and the diaphragm” is omitted from amended claim 7. The same limitation of original claim 1 is replaced in each of amended claims 11, 25, 32, 36, 37, and 39 by a new limitation added to the third clause of each of these claims, requiring a substantial portion of the first side of the diaphragm to be pressed against the valve seat when the diaphragm is in the closed position.
- The limitation of original claim 1 requiring “inhibiting [of] condensation on the first side of the diaphragm” is omitted from claims 7, 11, 25, 32, 36, 37, and 39.

Applicant believes the above-described amendments to claims 7, 11, 25, 32, 36, 37, and 39 will not affect patentability in view of the cited references.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 6, 12, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,520,001 of Miyamoto et al.; and claims 1-4, 10, 28, 29, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,386,849 of Gilchrist et al. Applicant responds by amending claim 1 to add the limitations of original dependent claim 23, which the examiner indicated as including

allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that the annular seating surface may extend radially from either the inlet or the outlet. Claim 23 is cancelled. Claims 2-6, 10, 12-22, 24, 28-31, 35, and 42-43 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable therewith.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejections of dependent claims 5 and 13-22 on obviousness grounds over various references cited in the Office action are addressed by the above-mentioned amendments to claim 1, from which claims 5 and 13-22 depend.

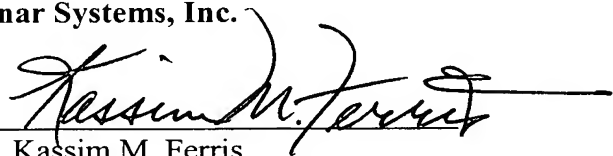
Conclusion

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. In the event that any outstanding issues are identified, Applicant invites the examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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